

SSH Integration in Horizon Europe: An introduction to doing inter-, multi-, and transdisciplinary research in EU-funded research projects

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Policy Background

“The Programme should support R&I activities in the field of social sciences and humanities (SSH). This entails advancing scientific knowledge in that domain and **making use of insights and progress from SSH to increase economic and societal impact of the Programme.**”

Horizon Europe Regulation, Para. 14, L 170/3

“Horizon Europe shall ensure a **multidisciplinary approach** and shall foresee, where appropriate, the **integration of social sciences and humanities across all clusters and activities** developed under the Programme, **including specific calls on SSH related topics.**”

Horizon Europe Regulation, Art. 7 “Principles of the Problem”, para. 2

“The **effective integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH) in all clusters**, including all **missions and partnerships**, is a principle through the Programme cycle. **SSH are a key constituent of research and innovation**, especially regarding the twin green and digital transitions.”

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2021-24

Why is there a need for SSH Integration?

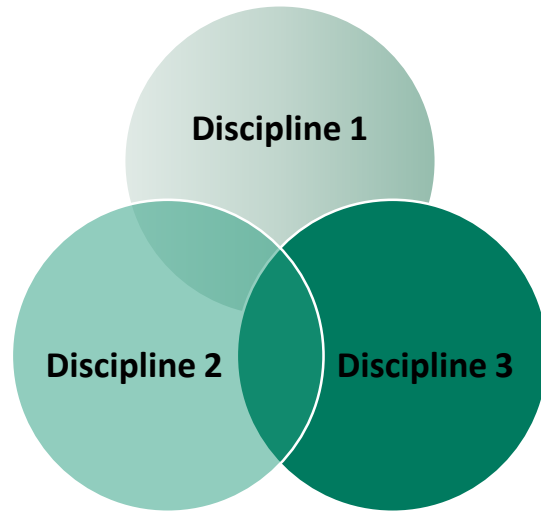
- ▶ Need for “**human centric**” focus in all research areas of the Horizon Europe Programme
- ▶ Develop **better solutions to complex problems** facing Europe/the world
 - ▶ **Technical solutions are not enough!**
- ▶ Develop solutions with **clear social relevance**, cost effectiveness, and marketability
- ▶ Integration of SSH disciplines in R&I projects leads to **stronger societal impact, broader/better citizen engagement**

What is SSH Integration?

- ▶ A **technical term** of the European Commission referring to the doing of **inter-/multi-/transdisciplinary research**
 - ▶ Refers to heterogeneous groups of actors (i.e. researchers) stemming from **different disciplines** within the **social sciences and humanities (“SSH”)**
 - ▶ Differing **thematic specialties** and **methodological approaches**
 - ▶ **Research collaborations** between **STEM and SSH disciplines**
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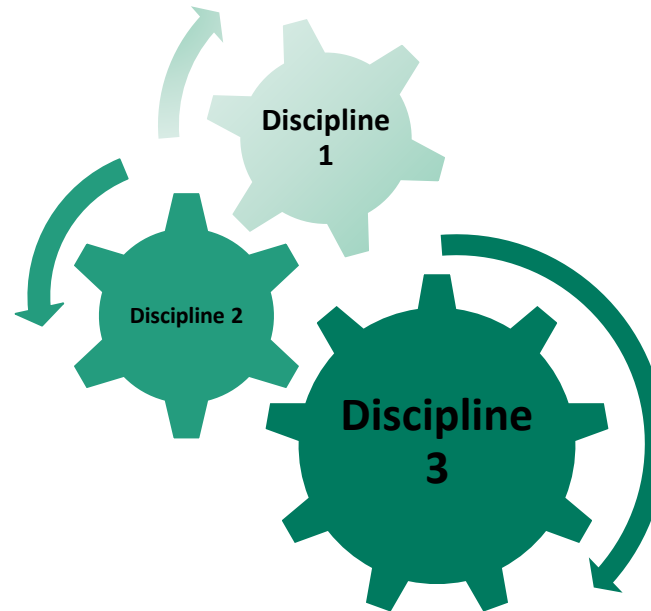
Research modalities referenced under SSH Integration

Interdisciplinarity



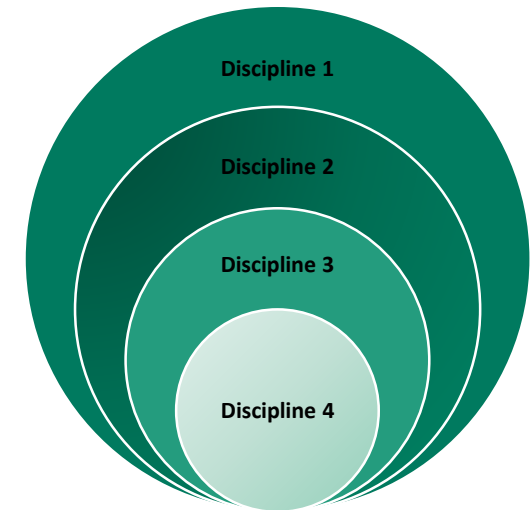
Combines two or more disciplines working on same problem, lots of interaction; goes beyond disciplinary boundaries; creates new knowledge; innovative because of flexible philosophy of how knowledge created

Multidisciplinarity



Multiple disciplines at once all working on same problem, but from individual disciplinary approaches, perspectives, ideas; limited to no interaction between the disciplines involved

Transdisciplinarity



Combines many disciplines & actors from other sectors (i.e. business, civil society) working on same problem; lots of interaction; aim is to go beyond create new frameworks that are beyond disciplinary boundaries

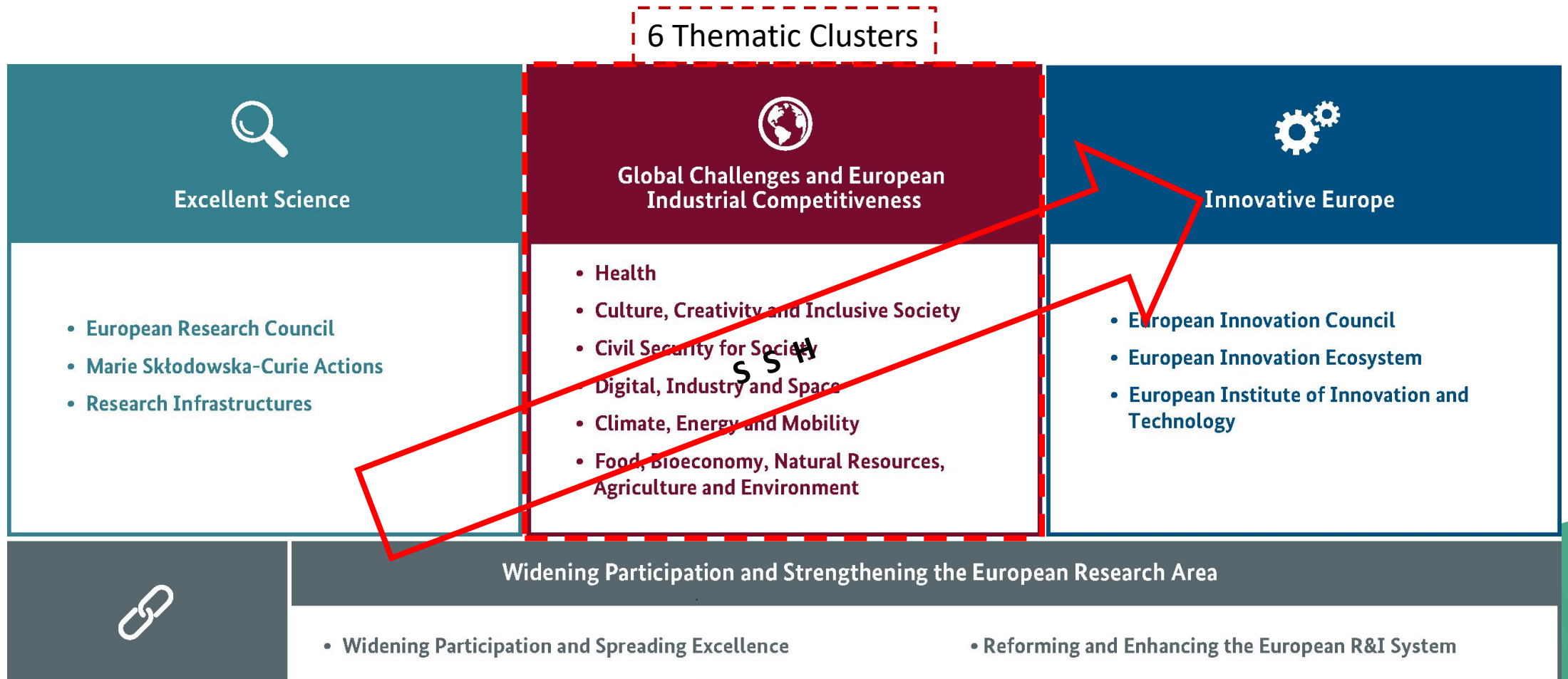
SSH Integration: H2020 & Horizon Europe



- ▶ SSH Integration as **cross-cutting** issue
- ▶ Inter-/multi-/transdisciplinarity as evaluation criterion

- ▶ SSH Integration as cross-cutting issue & **research principle**
- ▶ Clearly mentioned in topic text as part of “expected societal impacts”

SSH Integration in Horizon Europe



SSH Aspects in Horizon Europe include...



human behaviour,
lifestyle, well-being



historical aspects

variations across social groups



Economic analysis/
business models



legal, institutional & political
frameworks



demographic trends, socio-
geographic aspects


cultural &
anthropological aspects



Why include SSH in a proposal?

- ▶ European Commission **explicitly calls on SSH experts** to contribute to framing the questions and issues to be tackled in Horizon Europe
- ▶ Topics are **'flagged' for SSH** by European Commission, i.e. they **point to SSH research as integral part of the expertise needed** to properly address the issue outlined in the topic
- ▶ Proposals submitted for topics 'flagged' for SSH should contain **meaningful, integrated contributions from SSH researchers**

Why include SSH in a proposal?

- ▶ Depending on the topic: **indispensable** for understanding the challenge to be addressed
 - ▶ SSH perspectives can lead to **new findings, approaches, and solutions**
 - ▶ Improved application/use of project results: complex social problems require socially acceptable solutions and products
 - ▶ **Better chances** during evaluation (for SSH-relevant topics)
- 
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Evaluation of SSH Integration in Horizon Europe

SSH more **explicitly evaluated** in proposal

Horizon Europe template (RIA/IA, CSA)

Instrument	Application forms Part A	Application forms Part B
RIA (Research and innovation action)	2. Participants	1.2 Methodology and 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole
IA (Innovation action)	2. Participants	1.2 Methodology and 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole
CSA (Coordination and support action)	2. Participants	3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Evaluation of SSH Integration in Horizon Europe

Three evaluation criteria regarding SSH aspects observed by evaluators:

Excellence

For topics indicating the need for the integration of social sciences and humanities, is the role of these disciplines properly addressed?

Impact

Are the proposed dissemination, exploitation and communication measures suitable?

Implementation

Does the consortium match the project's objectives, and bring together the necessary disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge?

For topics flagged as SSH relevant, does **the consortium** include **expertise in social sciences and humanities?**

Flagging SSH research in Horizon Europe

Flagging: “to mark (an item) for attention or treatment in a specified way”

- ▶ Main instrument used by the European Commission to ensure involvement of specific SSH research methods, competencies, and skills in funded research projects
- ▶ Flagging in **all clusters (Cluster 1,3, 4, 5, 6) except for Cluster 2 (“SSH-dedicated” cluster)** and missions
- ▶ **Specific terminology** (i.e. words and phrases) is used to identify SSH research / researcher / expert involvement


Flagging SSH research in Horizon Europe

Usage of a standard sentence for all SSH-flagged topics (scope section), starting with
WP 2023-24 (Clusters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)

“This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities.”

How to know a topic is SSH-flagged

► Ask two key questions:

- Are both SSH terminology and SSH-oriented research questions included in the scope section of the topic?
 - Will the consortium require SSH partners to adequately and comprehensively address the issue at stake?
- 
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Types of SSH-flagged topics

“Dedicated” SSH-focused research in Horizon Europe Programme area **Cluster 2 (CL2) Work Programmes**:

- ▶ Finding a solution relies on knowledge and input from SSH researchers and practitioners
- ▶ Consortia submitting proposals will mainly consist of partners from **various SSH** disciplines

EU Missions:

- ▶ The **majority** of missions have an SSH dimension
- ▶ Missions highly focused on **generating social transformations/societal impact**
- ▶ Tied to [six EU policy priorities](#)

Topics with SSH components in **other Horizon Europe Clusters’ Work Programmes** :


- ▶ Multidisciplinary topics where finding a solution requires knowledge and input from **both** SSH and STEM
- ▶ Consortia submitting proposals will need to include **both** STEM and SSH partners


Identifying SSH terminology (non-CL2)


Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-24 (examples!)	
elementary	<p>“requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines”</p> <p>“requires an interdisciplinary approach with the effective contribution of SSH”</p> <p>“encourages a radically new approach to inclusion of humanities in R&I”</p>
intensive	<p>“The proposed research is expected to study the ethical, legal and social aspects as well as health economics of the personalised prevention tools and programmes being developed” (Cluster 1)</p> <p>“Proposals should consider aspects such as gender, regional variations, socioeconomics and culture” (Cluster 1)</p> <p>“Proposals should consider the complex human, social, cultural and ethical aspects that are necessarily managed by those care regimes and healthcare systems...” (Cluster 1)</p>
partial	<p>“with appropriate contributions/expertise from SSH”</p> <p>“including the relevant SSH dimension”</p> <p>“produce outcomes enhancing its societal impact”</p>
marginal	<p>“take into account the SSH aspect of this”</p> <p>“may benefit from being addressed by SSH”</p>

Locating SSH topics: EU Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal

Submission status

 Forthcoming

 Open for submission (6)

 Closed

Programming period

2021 - 2027 (6)

✕

▼

Horizon Europe (HORIZON) ✕

Programme part

Select a Programme part...

⌵

Mission

Mission: Soil health and food (6)

✕

▼

Destination

Select a Destination...

▼

Quick search on specific priorities

Socio-economic science and humanities (6)

✕

▼

Type of action	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	12 May 2022	Deadline date	27 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Network on carbon farming for agricultural and forest soils

HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01-06

[Call for proposal](#)[Grant](#)

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Open for submission
Type of action	HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	12 May 2022	Deadline date	27 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Foster soil education across society

HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01-07

[Call for proposal](#)[Grant](#)

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Open for submission
Type of action	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	12 May 2022	Deadline date	27 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Citizen science for soil health

HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01-09

[Call for proposal](#)[Grant](#)

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Open for submission
Type of action	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	12 May 2022	Deadline date	27 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Locating SSH partners: EU Partner Search

Partner search

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search>

or

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/> (manual)

Q Search by keyword, name... Search

☒ Organisations ☒ Persons Advanced search ^

Programme / Topic

Programme
Select a Programme... ▼

Topic
Select a Topic... ▼

Location

Country
Select a Country... ▼

City ⓘ
Type a City...

Organisation

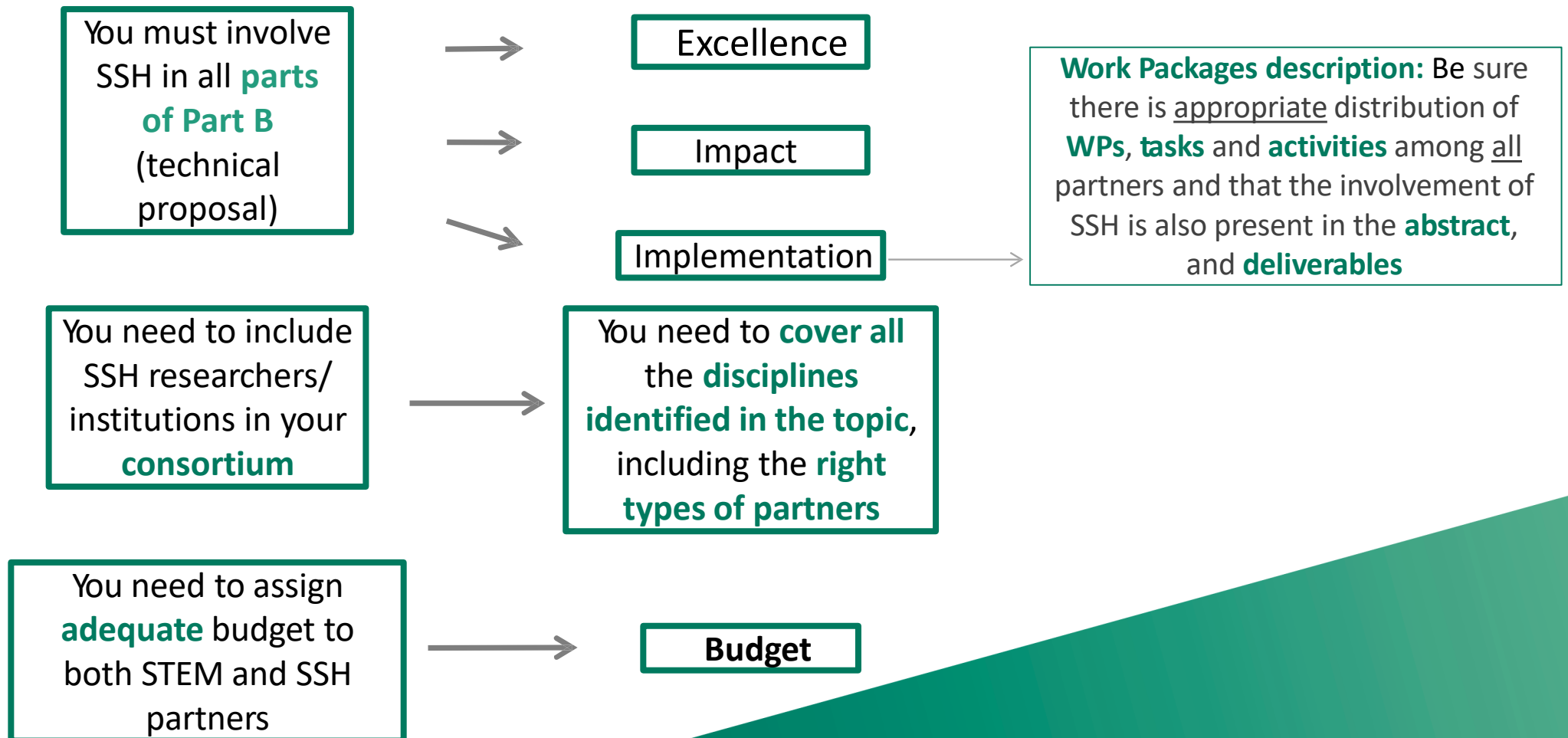
Organisation type
Select an Organisation type... ▼

Person profile

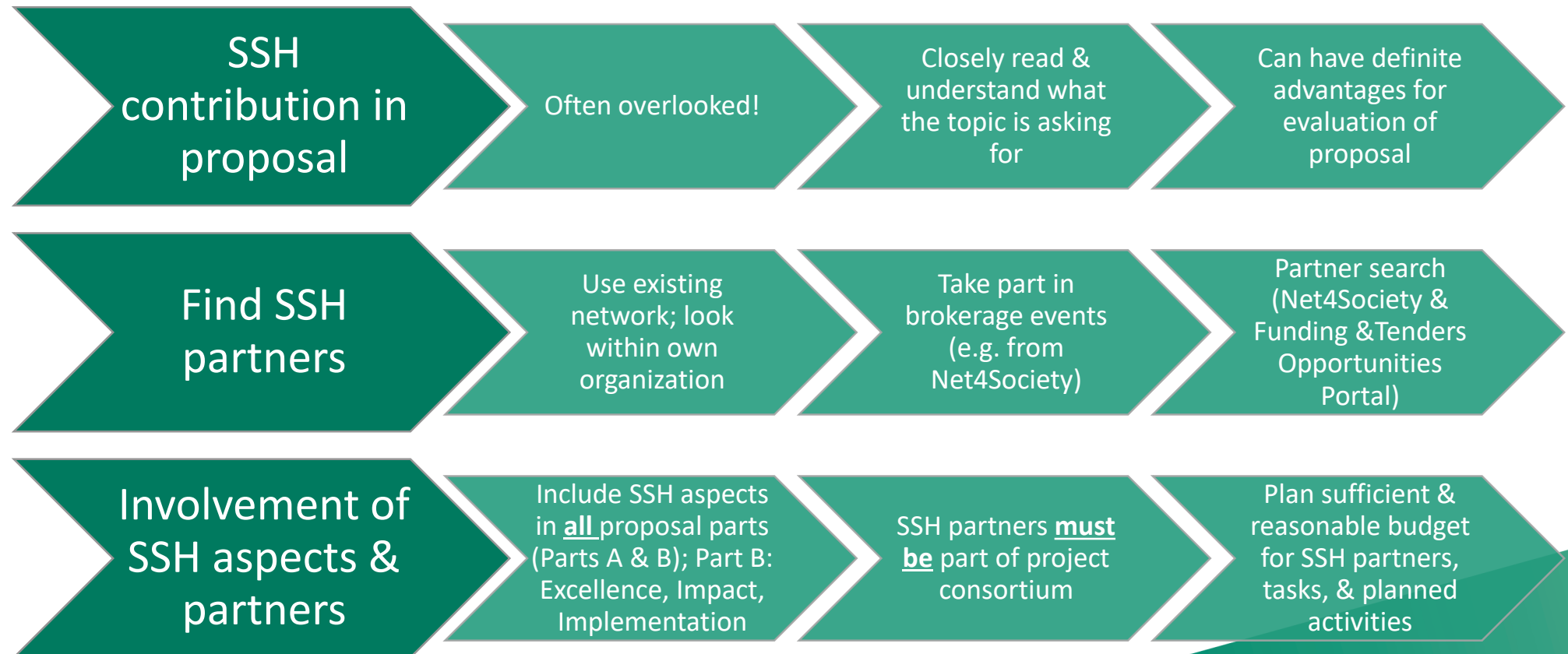
Professional profile
Select a Professional profile... ▼

☐ Profiles with published Partner search announcements (8892)


Include SSH in proposal






SSH Integration: practical tips (summary)




Support Tools & Services



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Funding Opportunities




Cluster 2 aims at including the Social Sciences and Humanities as a cross-cutting issue and consequently it is, additionally to Cluster 2, embedded into each pillar and objective of Horizon Europe.

The idea is to fully integrate the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines together with the SSH tackling the complex societal issues of European societies.


The Socio-economic sciences and Humanities include a wide range of disciplines, encompassing sociology and economics, psychology and political science, history and cultural sciences, law and ethics.

In addition to Horizon Europe, a number of European research funding initiatives provide further funding opportunities for Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH). On this website, open calls of relevance for SSH in ERA-Nets, Joint Programming Initiatives, Joint Technology Initiative or Article 185-Initiatives are listed.




Cluster 2

"Culture, creativity and inclusive society"




SSH Integration in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe aims at including the SSH as a cross-cutting issue and consequently it is embedded into each pillar and objective of Horizon Europe.



Other funding opportunities

In addition to Horizon Europe, a number of European research funding initiatives provide further funding opportunities for SSH.



Funding Opportunities for the Cultural and Creative Sectors

CultureEU Funding Guide: Easy access to the funding opportunities available for the cultural and creative sectors across all the funding sources of the European Union available in 2021-2027.

<http://www.net4society.eu>

SSH Opportunities Document

“Opportunities for Researchers from the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon Europe”

- ▶ **Overview** of SSH funding chances in Horizon Europe Programme (all Clusters & some other programming areas)
- ▶ Goes **beyond** European Commission flagged topics
- ▶ **3 categories: dedicated** topics, **relevant** topics, topics with **minor SSH relevance**
- ▶ Published regularly during project runtime
- ▶ **Next edition expected: end 2023/beginning 2024**



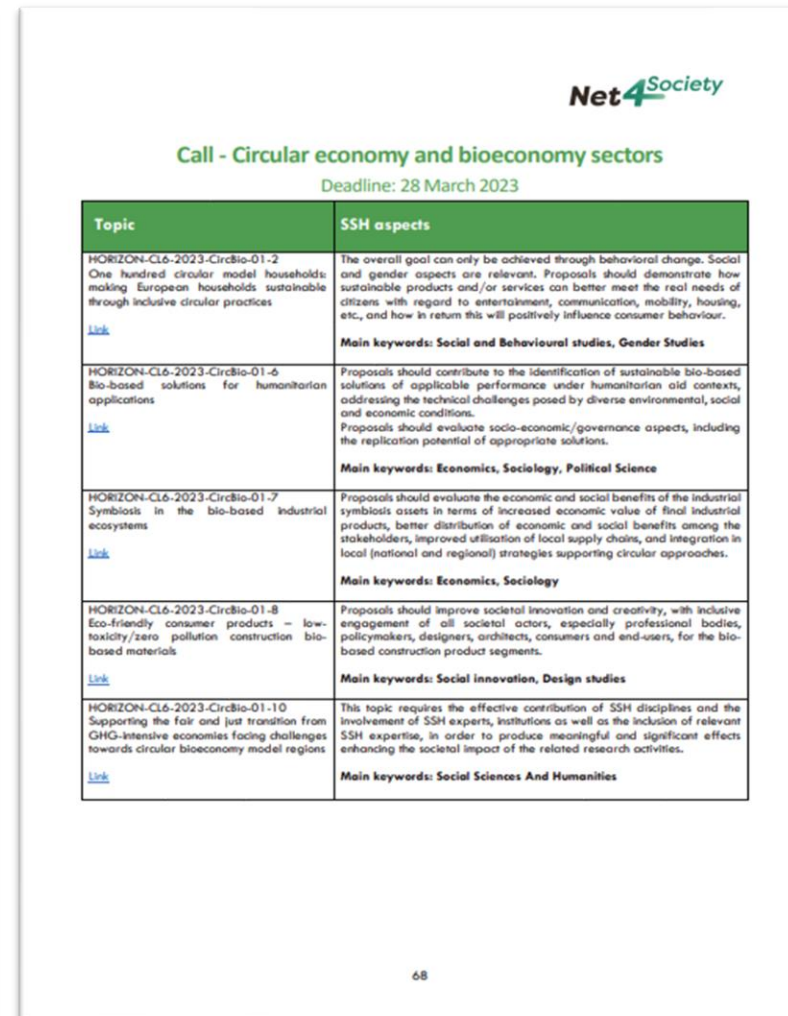
SSH Opportunities Document



Net4Society

Opportunities for Researchers from the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon Europe

Analysis of SSH-relevant Topics
in Work Programme 2023-24



Net4Society

Call - Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors

Deadline: 28 March 2023

Topic	SSH aspects
HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-2 One hundred circular model households making European households sustainable through inclusive circular practices Link	The overall goal can only be achieved through behavioral change. Social and gender aspects are relevant. Proposals should demonstrate how sustainable products and/or services can better meet the real needs of citizens with regard to entertainment, communication, mobility, housing, etc., and how in return this will positively influence consumer behaviour. Main keywords: Social and Behavioural studies, Gender Studies
HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-6 Bio-based solutions for humanitarian applications Link	Proposals should contribute to the identification of sustainable bio-based solutions of applicable performance under humanitarian aid contexts, addressing the technical challenges posed by diverse environmental, social and economic conditions. Proposals should evaluate socio-economic/governance aspects, including the replication potential of appropriate solutions. Main keywords: Economics, Sociology, Political Science
HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-7 Symbiosis in the bio-based industrial ecosystems Link	Proposals should evaluate the economic and social benefits of the industrial symbiosis assets in terms of increased economic value of final industrial products, better distribution of economic and social benefits among the stakeholders, improved utilisation of local supply chains, and integration in local (national and regional) strategies supporting circular approaches. Main keywords: Economics, Sociology
HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-8 Eco-friendly consumer products – low-toxicity/zero pollution construction bio-based materials Link	Proposals should improve societal innovation and creativity, with inclusive engagement of all societal actors, especially professional bodies, policymakers, designers, architects, consumers and end-users, for the bio-based construction product segments. Main keywords: Social innovation, Design studies
HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-10 Supporting the fair and just transition from GHG-intensive economies facing challenges towards circular bioeconomy model regions Link	This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities. Main keywords: Social Sciences And Humanities

Factsheets* on SSH Integration good practices

- Good practice: examples from successful inter and multidisciplinary projects (project design & carry-out):
 - Based on interviews with project coordinators different flagged topics
 - Focus on the **nature** (the “how”) of SSH researchers inclusion in the projects



*H2020-funded projects; **no longer actively produced** by the project

SSH Opportunities in other programming areas

- ▶ Ongoing monitoring of SSH funding opportunities in other Horizon Europe funding areas:
 - ▶ Missions
 - ▶ Partnerships (former Art. 185 instruments, co-programmed, co-financed, institutional)
 - ▶ EIC, EIT (e.g. KIC Culture & Creativity calls)

Currently open calls with SSH aspects in:



Brokerages

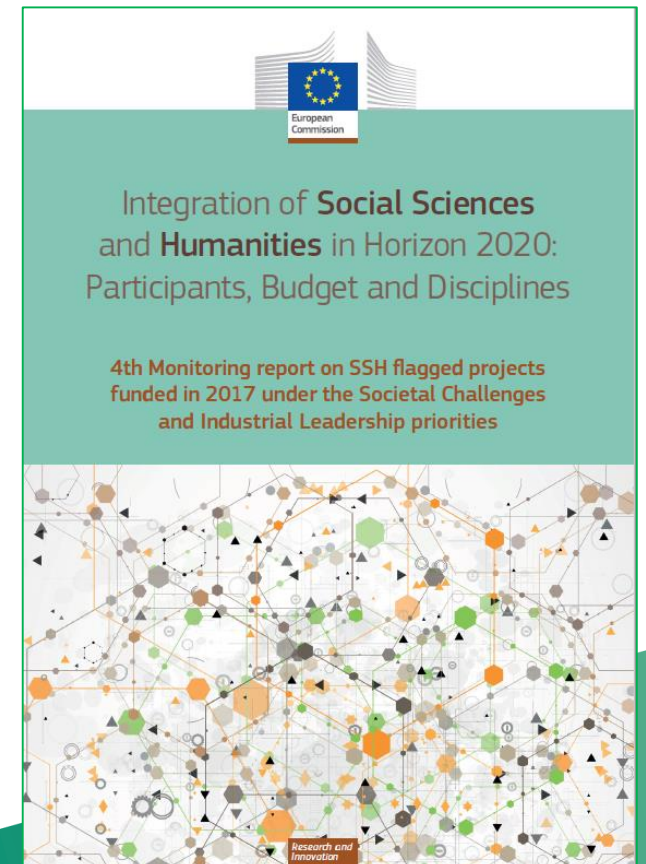
- Networking events for researchers from the SSH and STE(A)M disciplines, and relevant non-academic actors
 - B2match tool used to organize meetings online
 - Online & on-site events planned
 - Collaboration with other NCP networks



SSH Integration Monitoring Report

- ▶ The monitoring report provides a yearly assessment of the degree of **SSH integration** in H2020 & Horizon Europe through an analysis of the projects funded under **SSH-flagged topics**
- ▶ A comprehensive **methodology** has been developed to provide measurable indicators of SSH integration
 - ▶ Number of SSH partner
 - ▶ Budget to SSH partners
 - ▶ Effort
 - ▶ Disciplines
- ▶ Next edition: **June 2023**

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/knowledge-publications-tools-and-data/publications/all-publications/integration-social-sciences-and-humanities-horizon-2020_en



SHAPE-ID Toolkit

- ▶ **Tips, guidelines, examples** on how to carry out interdisciplinary research
- ▶ Designed for use by:
 - ▶ **Researchers**
 - ▶ **Research organizations**
 - ▶ **Research funders/policymakers**
 - ▶ **Societal partners** (e.g. artists/creative practitioners, CSOs, NGOs, non-profits)
- ▶ <https://www.shapeidtoolkit.eu/>

Learn more using the SHAPE-ID Toolkit:



Guided Pathways



Top Ten Tips



Case Studies



Downloadable Guides



FAQ



Guided Tours

Stay informed & contact us

Social networks:



Website:

www.net4society.eu

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**Thank you
for listening!**

Net4*Society*